

I will not be alone. Recently a poll of small business owners found that 57 percent of small businesses would drop health care coverage for employees if employer liability was increased. This potentially could lead to the end of employer-based health care and leave tens of millions of people without health care coverage.

H.R. 2926, the CARE Act, would ensure patients' rights without exposing employers to lawsuits for voluntarily providing health care and benefits to their employees. The CARE Act also allows small employers to band together to provide health care benefits for their employees by pooling their purchasing power in a new association health plan. This provision would create affordable access to health care for millions.

Let small business and employers continue to provide health care benefits to the American workforce. Vote for 2926.

#### A STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN RHETORIC AND REALITY

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the House has turned the Edmond Morris Ronald Reagan biography controversy on its head. Mr. Morris has been criticized for claiming to be present when he was not.

The pattern here in the House is the opposite. Members are essentially claiming not to have been present when they were. Indeed, they are trying to disclaim responsibility for things they themselves did.

Most frequently that has happened with the 1997 Budget Act, which cut Medicare and imposed unrealistic caps, and which a lot of Members are now acting as if they stumbled across this somewhere in a room and have no idea how it got there.

But now we have a new version of this, the Republican pledge that we will not spend any of the Social Security surplus, which they vigorously express while they are simultaneously bringing out appropriations bills which spend the Social Security surplus. That reached a new height the other day when we passed a resolution which was a memorandum from the House to the House pledging not to do what we were in fact in the process of doing.

Claiming that we will never spend the Social Security surplus this year, while we are, according to the Congressional Budget Office in fact doing exactly that, is about the starkest contrast between rhetoric and reality in recent times.

#### AMERICA'S CHOICE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the American public and the American people deserve to hear the truth about who will better protect Social Security and America's future. Under the Democratic-controlled Congress, Congress raided the Social Security trust fund in every year, in every budget, for nearly three decades. Why? So they could pay for bigger, more wasteful government bureaucracy.

Now this Congress, for the first time, has a chance to stop this incredulous thief of big-government spending, the one who steals from the future of Social Security.

Since the Republicans have taken control of Congress, we have slowed the runaway government spending of our colleagues over here on the left and begun balancing the budget for the first time in nearly 40 years and will do this without dipping into Social Security surpluses.

The American public needs to tell the tax-and-spend Democrats and the President to quit raiding Social Security and work with the Republicans to better protect Social Security and America's future.

Americans have a clear choice, support a strong Republican principle of saving Social Security and securing America's future, or support the Democrat's expanding, expensive new government and their tax-and-spend bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, it is America's choice.

#### BE HONEST WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is in trouble, and I am not going to blame either party. There is enough blame to go around on everybody. Congress has tried Gramm-Rudman, budget caps, lockboxes, and now some in Congress even want to create a zodiac ploy of a 13th month. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

Let us be honest. As long as Social Security money is there, available to be spent, it will be spent, by both parties. I say it is time for a constitutional amendment that says Social Security money can only be used for Social Security and Medicare. Let us be honest with the American people.

I yield back all the good intentions of Congress that have not worked and will not work about Social Security.

#### CBO STATES REPUBLICAN SPENDING PLAN WILL NOT USE PROJECTED SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, during August the ranking member on the Com-

mittee on the Budget tried to write a Republican budget, and he made certain assumptions that the Republicans are not going to do. He sent a letter to the Congressional Budget Office asking if we would spend the Social Security surplus under his Democrat-written Republican budget.

Well, of course the CBO wrote back that under that budget, the Social Security surplus would be spent. They cannot even write a Republican budget.

The budget that we sent to the CBO that we are actually going to pass in this House and send to the President was sent to the CBO yesterday, and here is the letter back to the Speaker, Mr. Speaker, that says, "CBO estimates that this spending plan will not use any of the projected Social Security surplus in fiscal year 2000."

So, media, listen up. Why do you not get it right? At least comment on the plan that the Republicans are putting before the House and the Senate and the CBO numbers that reflect that plan.

□ 1015

#### THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME WORKING AMERICANS SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED

(Mr. TIERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, it appears that our Republican colleagues, the Republican Party leadership, have a real dilemma on their hands. After forcing through Congress a budget resolution that we already knew was simply unrealistic and that in order to implement it it would require disastrous reductions in programs for the needy and others, they are desperate to find some additional funds to finish the appropriations process so they can limp out of town.

Well, what to do when one needs to come up with a quick eight or nine billion dollars? According to the Republican leadership, the plan goes like this: Their plan is to find the money and pass the appropriations bills by delaying payment of the earned income tax credit to 20 million low- and moderate-income working American families. That is right. They want to delay payment of the earned income tax credit to 20 million low- and moderate-income working Americans. That means that the only Americans who would bear the burden of delaying the tax refunds are those whose earnings permit them a refund so they can afford to commute to work, for their jobs to keep clothes on the children and to feed their families.

Is there anyone who really believes that the most intelligent way to raise money to cover the shortfalls called for in the failed Republican budget is to make more money from low- to moderate-income taxpayers? I truly hope not.